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Consideration of a statement of ethics for endorsement by the global geospatial information community

Consideration of a statement of ethics

Report of the Secretary-General

The present paper provides a summary of the report for consideration on the start of a process to draft a statement of ethics for the global geospatial information community.[1] The report highlights that, in various intergovernmental discussions, the need for a statement of ethics and supporting code of conduct for the global geospatial information community has been raised as an important means to enhance the trust placed by the public on geospatial information. In addition, with the development of emerging practices such as crowdsourcing and volunteered information, there are acknowledged gaps in the legal and institutional frameworks that provide effective regulation or guidance for the capture, use and dissemination of geospatial information, which a statement of ethics will help to fill. The report provides examples of ethical standards and codes of conduct that currently exist in some related disciplines. It proposes a number of key elements that would need to be discussed and agreed upon by the geospatial information community. The Committee is invited to consider the need for a statement of ethics for the global geospatial information community and express its views on the process of its formulation.

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* E/C.20/2012/1.

[1] The full report is available in the language of submission only from http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html.

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